

### **This I believe- Money can bring happiness**

A simple quote of “Money makes the world go round” may seem insignificant, yet it strikes such a perfect chord with me that I cannot agree more. Money, in my experiences, has brought me more than just luxury. In breathtaking moments in my life, I have experienced the works of money, and its ability to bring me happiness. Those are moments when I truly believe in the power of money.

One of them took place when I was only seven. Money had never been a problem for my family, until our family faced a financial crisis when the sole breadwinner of the family, my father, lost his job in a retrenchment. I wasn’t shaken by the news at first. I mean, how difficult can life be without money?

However, it wasn’t before long, when I realized that I had to scrimp and save on my pocket money. Sometimes, I would go on without lunches as I did not have enough money. My friends ostracized me, for always staying in class during recess and not joining the class. I was like the odd sheep in school. I often felt an empty churning feeling in my stomach, and I knew it wasn’t from the hunger.

Being the odd sheep at school was bad enough, but being one at home was much worse. My parents were frantically looking for jobs, so much so that they started to neglect me. At one point, I even doubted their ability to take care of me. They were too caught up with their work that I was often left alone. Sometimes, I could hear my parents at loggerheads outside. I wanted badly to be freed from this world, so that the problems of money could not come haunting me.

The sky opened up for me when my father found a newer, higher-paying job. That night, my mother pulled me up close held me in her arms and whispered into my ear, “Ying Shan, I know daddy and mommy have not been caring about you. It was because we faced a lot of issues regarding our finances and... we’re really sorry, but life without money is really hard.” Tears flowed out of my eyes. The tension I had bottled up, the burden I had been carrying were all released in a split second. I felt eased, as if someone had soothed the creases in my heart. But this wasn’t someone. It was money.

This incident left a lasting impression on me. It created a turning point in my life that let me believe that money isn’t what others refer to as “material wealth”. This “material wealth”, with its inability to buy happiness has yet made so many people who are desperate; who feel that life is meaningless, fulfilled once again. Money had made me happy, and I think that it will do so for many other people. Thus, I believe in the ability of money to bring happiness, because, after all, it had made my world go round.